

Ernest Erber, FAICP

Curriculum Vitae

(I) A Short Outline of Ernest Erber's Career in Planning

An overview of my 50-year career as an urban planner suggests its logical division, both chronologically and substantively, into five periods, each approximately a decade in length and each within a different operational setting and relating to a higher level of government, a more encompassing geographical area, and insights into a more highly complex socio-economic format, as follows:

First Period: 1949-60. Planning at Local and Area Levels

- 1949: initially employed in urban planning on staff of the Passaic-Bergen Community Planning Association in New Jersey (a not-for-profit, privately-funded organization) to design and direct a public information and advocacy program based on research findings and planning proposals produced by a staff of four professional planners with additional employees in support roles.)
- (1950) pursuant to collapse of funding followed by resignation of PBCPA's executive head, an experienced professional planner, and drastic reduction of the staff, I was offered and accepted a three-month appointment as Executive Director of PBCPA, essentially to liquidate a failing organization.
- 1950-52: introducing a new operational rationale, viz. contracting with local governments to provide staff planning services -- together with a new vision -- PBCPA was resuscitated. Expanding revenues enabled the hiring of a new staff, which, together with a part-time, nationally-known zoning consultant, resulted in timely completion of contract obligations; soon reflected in much public acclaim when planning led to local improvements.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Vital Data

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Date of Birth: September 27, 1913
Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA
Marital Status: Married (Dec. 1937)
Wife's Name: Sylvia Erber, nee Schwartz
Education: Post High School Auto-didact
2nd Language: German
Occupation: Retired Professional Urban/Regional Planner
Health: Good. Use hearing aid.

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●1952-55: attraction of additional adjoining communities results in expansion of PBCPA's inter-municipal planning area.

●1954: become Associate Member of the American Institute of Planners (professional society that preceded current American Institute of Certified Planners) with C. McKim Norton, executive head of the NY Regional Plan Association, and Hugh R. Pomeroy, Planning Director of Westchester County, serving as my (required) sponsors.

●1956: launched a program to plan the reclamation of the vast Hackensack Meadowland by inducing five adjacent municipalities to create of a Meadowland planning commission under their joint jurisdiction. Added a specialized staff of planners, engineers and a financial analyst to PBCPA's staff to conduct the planning operation. Engaged a Dutch reclamation firm to advise PBCPA staff, resulting in much favorable mention in NY metropolitan press. Created interest in Meadowlands project on the part of the Governor of New Jersey and its Legislature, laying basis for future state involvement.

● 1954--60: initiated annual conferences of government officials and civic and business leaders from the Passaic-Bergen area to hear reports on changes resulting from urbanization trends and on proposed planning solutions to improve transportation, land use, conservation, water supply, flood control, waste disposal and other overall area problems.

Second Period: 1960-70. Planning at the Metropolitan Regional Level --:

- Experience and study (much reading of urban theorists and the sociology from which they drew) during the preceding decade resulted in a growth and maturation of knowledge, both in operational depth and in awareness of the complexity of the socio-economic format of metropolitan urbanism, thus nurturing a growing awareness of the shortcomings of localism in policy and decision-making and a search for solutions at regional levels.
- 1959-60: a one-year transition from local to regional levels by continuing as Executive Director of PBCPA while accepting a staff position with the NY Regional Plan Association as its NJ Area Director, assigned to organize a New Jersey Committee of RPA, with an office in Newark and with active participation in RPA's staff work on the Second Regional Plan (the First Plan having been completed fifty years earlier), with responsibility for inputs into the plan's NJ segment.
- 1961: organized RPA's NJ Committee, beginning with search for, and interviews with, prospective members. My recommendations to RPA's Board of Directors results in its naming some 25 members in addition to its nucleus of 9 NJ members already on the Board, achieving balance by location, occupation (predominantly business or professional types, with one from organized labor), civic prominence, largely non-partisan politically, relatively knowledgeable about functionality of public systems, i.e. transportation, water supply and drainage, waste-disposal, open space, communications, energy, etc.
- made leading contributions to forging needed linkages between local and county perspectives and those of the metropolitan region by identifying related goals articulated by policies and programs compatible to major portions of North Jersey's public opinion.

- maintained a flow of information from the NJ Committee's Newark office to the press, to the NJ Committee's members, to a growing mailing list of business and civic leaders and to elected and appointed officials in local, county and state government.

- marshalled and activated the NJ Committee's network of "movers and shakers" (public utilities, press, universities and colleges, League of Women Voters, AFL-CIO, Chambers of Commerce, Sierra Club, building and construction industry, banking, insurance, commuters, etc.) in support of specific proposals such as saving commuter rail service, the Passaic Watershed, North Jersey public water supply, extension of NJ Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, public access to oceanfront beaches, etc., all of which made the NJ Committee the "power house" it proved itself to be in action.

- contributed a specifically New Jersey conceptualization of the form and function of the New Jersey sector's place within, and relationship to, the NY Metropolitan Region as a whole; a conceptualization that was grounded in New Jersey's unique interests, yet cognizant of the comprehensive need for regional workability, making this "New Jersey" conceptualization an ever-present reality in the work and decisions of RPA's staff in creating the Second Regional Plan. (See: New Jersey: Issues and Action, by Ernest Erber, Area Director, and William G. Andersen, Jr. Planner, Regional Plan Association. *Regional Plan News*, April 1967, Number 83.)

- making this NJ conceptualization an influence at state and federal levels by maintaining close relations with New Jersey's Governors (particularly the Hon. Robert B. Meyner and the Hon. Richard J. Hughes) and New Jersey's U.S. Senators (particularly the Hon. Clifford P. Case and the Hon. Harrison A. Williams) and Representatives (particularly Robert A. Roe, beginning with his term as Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, within which was located the Division of State and Regional Planning.)

- Strengthening the NJ Committee's influence in state government by serving as a consultant to the newly created Department of Community Affairs, the first Commissioner of which was Dr. Paul Ylvisaker, with whom I had close personal ties dating back to his serving as a Vice-President of the Ford Foundation.

- Public role as RPA's New Jersey Director was an extremely active one, given that the NJ staff consisted of only two other persons: a planner and a secretary. My personal files/archives, consequently, are too voluminous, given my post-retirement resources, to research and record completely. A partial listing is attached. It is typical of subject headings and audiences whom I addressed as expert witness in legal proceedings, testimony before legislative and fact-finding commissions at federal, state and county levels, innumerable lectures and addresses to civic bodies, professional societies, scholarly institutes, academic seminars, civic, occupational, special interest groupings, etc.

- In an initiative that was simultaneous with, but largely extra-curricular to, RPA and its NJ Committee, I spearheaded, at the urging of Fred Ferber, a retired inventor and manufacturer and active outdoorsman and ardent conservationist, the creation of the Appalachian Highlands Association (AHA), an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Appalachian Highlands in their natural state to serve as "green belt" buffer to contain spreading urbanization. The initial motivation for this effort was the protection of the Appalachian Trail from the Hudson River in NY to the Susquehanna River in NJ through Federal and/or bi-state action via either public purchase or land use control (zoning) of private property through which the trail ran at intermittent locations. The idea and the organization that was created to achieve it received widespread support from hikers, hunters, naturalists, and from the public response of the then budding upsurge of pro-environmental public opinion.

● As the decade of the 1960s drew toward its end, my public and professional life was affected by two unrelated phenomena. One was the sudden budgetary crisis of the Regional Plan Association brought on by the termination of special funding of the Second Regional Plan upon its completion. This necessitated the closing the NJ Committee's office in Newark and relocation of its staff to the main office in Manhattan. I found this to be an extremely difficult, if not impossible, base of operations for the New Jersey program. The other phenomenon was my increasing disenchantment with RPA's continued disregard of the social and racial aspects of urbanism. (All members of the NJ Committee as well as of RPA's Board of Directors were white males.) This personally distressing situation was suddenly resolved by an offer from the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH) to put me in charge of a Carnegie-funded study of the effect of housing discrimination in the outer areas of the NY metropolitan region upon employment opportunities for racial minorities in these areas of outward moving plants and office centers. I accepted this offer and joined the staff of NCDH with the title of Director of Research and Program Planning, a transition that took place amicably since RPA was to provide population and employment data for the NCDH study, (RPA's NJ Committee was to remain inactive for an entire decade, until RPA revived it in the early 1980s, when -- having just retired -- I was engaged by RPA as its consultant in searching for personnel to restaff the NJ Committee and open an office in Newark once more.)

Third Period : 1969-1981 -- Leading Role in the Fight to
End Exclusionary Zoning

- As director of NCDH's Carnegie-Funded National Jobs/Housing Study, I design it by drawing upon the planning discipline's urbanization theory and its research/projection/proposal techniques.
- Insist on designing a methodology able to establish rigorous factual basis for study's findings, if and when used in court tests.
- March 1970: completion of 250-page interim report on study's findings, published under title of JOBS and HOUSING, with well-attended press conference and considerable media coverage.
- March 1972: completion of Jobs/Housing Study and publication of FINAL SUMMARY REPORT ON THE HOUSING COMPONENT (March 1972), containing major conclusions and policy recommendations.
- 1973: Based on the study's findings, created a broad litigative strategy in collaboration with Norman Williams, Esq. aimed to test constitutionality of exclusionary zoning in state courts, preferably starting in NJ.
- 1973: Convinced NCDH's Executive Director to have its Legal Dept. prepare test case against 23 municipalities in Middlesex County (NJ).
- 1973: With the discreet cooperation of Middlesex County's planning director, prepared the graphic and statistical evidence, including my "fair share housing allocation plan for Middlesex County" (referred to in the trial and court record as the "Erber Model") that was filed by NCDH's legal team in a class action suit against the 23 municipalities by Urban League of New Brunswick on behalf of minority residents of Middlesex County.

●1974: Appeared as expert witness in 8-week long trial of Urban League's complaint, testifying for 4 and 1/2 days and being cross examined by 21 attorneys representing the defendant municipalities.

● 1974-1983: After the court ruled in favor of the Urban League, the case wound its way through the NJ court system, with verdicts followed by appeals and victories by set-backs, until it reached the NJ Supreme Court, where, in January 1983, it was combined with the rehearing of a similar case against the municipality of Mount Laurel (and referred to as "Mount Laurel II") to result in a sweeping condemnation of exclusionary zoning as being a violation of the NJ State Constitution, referred to in the legal journal Land Use Law (March 1983) as "A Case of National Significance", as, indeed, it has proved to be. Having become associated with the case and widely identified as one of the half dozen intellectual activists who initiated and nurtured the fight against exclusionary zoning, much of my professional practice as an urban planner in the 1970s and 1980s became related to the matters involving the link between job availability and housing location as a civil rights issue. (See my article "The Road to Mount Laurel" in Planning, the monthly publication of the American Planning Association, November 1983).

●1981: Retired from full-time employment at age 66 to gain the time and freedom for broader intellectual pursuits, both within the discipline of planning and beyond it, though mainly in related fields; also to play a more active role in contributing to the theoretical and programmatic development of the planning profession, particularly in the area of national-level planning.

Fourth Period: 1980-1990 -- Theorist/Advocate
in Reviving Interest
in National Planning

- 1980-84: with preliminary thrusts in 1978-79, sparked by the White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development (1978) in which the American Planning Association (APA) played a feeble role, initiated a revival of interest in national planning within the planning profession by drafting position papers, writing articles and reviews, speaking at conferences, corresponding and conferring, and serving on task forces and commissions.
- 1979: organized and moderated a session of APA's national conference in Baltimore on "The Energy Crisis and the Case for National Planning; Do We Need a New National Resources Planning Board" with papers presented by James E. Thornton of the Farmers Home Administration; Prof. Robert Lekachman, Distinguished Professor of Economics, City University of New York; James P. Gibbons, Jr. President of Consumers United Group and several other insurance companies; and The Honorable George E. Brown, Jr., Member, U.S. House of Representatives (California, 36th District), the impact of which caused APA's Board of Directors to create a Task Force on National Planning, on which I served.
- 1980-82: drafted numerous position papers and initiated the publication of a newsletter devoted to national planning (information and exchange of views) at the request of APA's Task Force on National Planning and was a leading participant in its protracted effort to hammer out a policy on national planning that would be acceptable to APA's entire Board, including hard-core opponents led by a member who served on the staff of a Republican Senator, resulting in subordinating the issue of national planning to the more ambiguous subject of "intergovernmental relations", with the creation of a "Intergovernmental Affairs Division" within APA, with its own newsletter.

- 1983: appointed Associate Editor for National Planning of the new IGA Division's quarterly newsletter (which replaced the national planning newsletter).

- 1983: drafted, at request of APA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division, a detailed policy statement on "industrial policy" as a component of "national strategic planning" as APA's response to a number of bills before Congress seeking to give legislative form to proposals to strengthen the economy through government assistance targeted to selected industries, also referred to in Congressional debates and in the media as "Industrial Policy". Adopted at APA's annual conference in 1984 with only minor changes. (See "National, State, and Regional Planning in the Mid-1980's", published in 1985 by the Bureau of Urban and Regional Planning Research, University of Illinois, with Introduction by Dr. Bruce D. McDowell, AICP, pp. 11-19).

- 1983-1994: contributed a total of some 35 essays and/or commentaries on national planning to "The Newsletter" published (quarterly) by APA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division. (Being prepared for "desk top" publication with introductory commentary.)

- 1980-84: rendered contractual services as consultant to:

- (a) United States Civil Rights Commission, Eastern Regional Office, serving as Special Consultant on availability of minority entrepreneurs to be solicited by Amtrak (as per Federal civil rights statute) for contractual supply of goods and/or services on its Boston-to-Washington high speed, right-of-way improvement project, resulting in interviewing 15 potential minority contractors and submitting voluminous narrative reports for each firm as to incidents involving racial discrimination, plus business experience, size and composition of work force, etc. and to:

- (b) Dobbs Construction, Inc., developer of commercial properties and, as owner of vacant land in Bedminster Township, N.J., an applicant for zoning change to permit

construction of a shopping center, enlisted my professional services to study and prepare a report on Dobb's proposal to build residential housing priced for low-and-moderate income families in conjunction with, and adjacent to, the shopping center as a means of securing zoning approval (based on rationale that this would permit Bedminster to fulfill a legal requirement to provide a sufficient amount of low-and-moderate cost housing to balance its previous, decades-long, exclusionary zoning against such housing.)

● 1983- 85: participated in drafting of "The Recovery and Full Employment Planning Act" at the invitation of Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., its sponsor, and of Prof. Bertram Gross, St. Mary's College (California) and, subsequently, participated in drafting revisions of the bill as introduced in following session (1985) of the Congress by Rep. Charles A. Hayes, D-Ill., under revised title of "Income and Jobs Action Act of 1985"

● 1986: join with Prof. Irving Hand, AICP, past president of APA, and John Hirten, AICP, its past Executive Director, in exploring prospects for collaboratively producing a book on national planning, undertaking to initiate it by drafting an outline of contents and guidelines as to form and procedures.

● 1987: after circulation of initial drafts of outline for book, engage as central draftsman in numerous revisions and redrafts as number of collaborators expands with the addition of Prof. David A. Johnson, AICP, Univ. of Tenn., and Dr. Bruce D. McDowell, AICP, Director, Government Policy Research, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

● 1988-89: assume leadership role in grass roots public policy initiatives on behalf of health-care reform at local, state (Maryland), and national levels; serve as chairman of Howard County Health-Care Coalition and make frequent trips to Annapolis to testify before committees of the State Legislature.

Fifth Period: 1990-2000 --Thinking - Rethinking - Writing;
Advocacy and Political Action
Within (and Beyond) APA/AICP

- 1990-95: continue to play an active role within the planning profession, focusing mainly on theoretical work (research, analysis, description, projection, etc.) published in articles, essays, conference papers, reviews, mailing-list correspondence, etc. (see list of publications) and by attending most of the annual national conferences of APA to deliver or critique papers.
- 1990: attend three-day conference on the future of Eastern Europe held at Bard College with most presentations by scholars from the subject area -- in preparation for a personal visit there later in the year.
- 1990: visit Germany (both East and West) and Poland to witness transition from Communist police-statism to freedom and to confer with its professional planners and officials to inform and advise them on strengths and weaknesses of American planning administration and practice, designed to enlighten them before they use American planning as a role model. (See: "Questions Posed for Planners With the Building of the New Berlin", by Ernest Erber, AICP, in INTERPLAN, published by International Division of APA, No. 34 Winter 1991, and "The Insiders' View -- Interviews with Berlin's Planners, East and West", by Ernest Erber, AICP, published in PLANNING, May 1991).
- 1990-95: consultative contacts with Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin (D.Maryland -- my home district) regarding pending legislation within my interest areas; initiated when heading delegation from Senior Advocates to visit him at his Baltimore office.
- 1991: give lecture on urban change to Evergreen Forum, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, and an affiliate of the nation-wide Learning in Retirement Program; the first of a number of L.I.R. lectures on (and beyond) planning.

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- 1993-94: revive -- and work on -- national planning book project with proposed co-authors Hand, Hirten, Johnson and McDowell.
- 1995: relocation of family's residence from Maryland to Red Hook, NY ruptures Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area professional and public-issue connections. resulting in reduced local intellectual stimuli relevant to planning discipline.
- 1995-2000: continue an active interest in planning profession via publications, newly-issued books and attendance at most of APA's annual conferences (presenting a paper on national planning in 1998 in Boston and participant in off-program groups in 2000 in New York City.
- Addenda re service to APA in previous career "Periods":

Addendum (1)

- 1966-67: served as President of the New Jersey Chapter (after serving as V-P in previous year), providing leadership to the Chapter during bitter conflict of NJ planners with the professional organizations of the engineers and architects, when both groups contended that pending legislation to establish state licensing for planners should grant planning licenses automatically to engineers and architects. Became defendant in multi-million dollar libel suit filed by Society of Professional Engineers, alleging that they had been libelled in a statement made to Legislature as President of the APA Chapter (suit was dropped after planner's licensing bill was passed and signed into law). After turning down the "honor" of receiving State Professional Planning License Number One, received License Number 125.

Addendum (2)

- 1968: Served as Program Chairman for APA's 1968 Annual Conference (in Pittsburgh), commissioning papers designed to a book: Urban Planning In Transition, Ernest Erber, Ed.

(2) Ernest Erber's Early Career Experiences and Auto-Didactical Education --Mainly in the Socialist Movement and its New York Intellectual Milieu

● 1931-35: Teen-age Socialist. Since I was already 36 years of age when I entered my first job in a planning office (PBCPA) in 1949, I had, obviously, prior career experience. In the preceding 17 years, I had accumulated a wide (and rich) variety of "work" experience, most of it in or around or triggered by my membership in the Socialist Party of America, having joined its youth section (Young Peoples Socialist League -- YPSL) in 1931 and becoming its National Chairman and editor of its monthly publication in 1935. I quickly learned the rudiments of organization, group leadership, and public advocacy (spoken and written); initially in political action, but soon -- it being the depths of the Great Depression -- in the leadership of the organized unemployed, and in the labor movement (including strike situations). I also read voraciously in a constant effort to understand the theoretical underpinnings of what I believed and espoused -- mainly in history, political theory, economics, social sciences, and philosophy. And, unawed, I associated -- and argued -- with intellectuals of all sorts, many of whom had Ph. D.s.

● 1933-34 Adult Education Teacher. Still living "at home" in Chicago with my parents, who were desperately trying to save their home from mortgage foreclosure, I applied for "emergency employment" with W.P.A. and -- after having been given an I.Q. test! -- was hired as an adult education teacher at age 20! I taught Labor History, Parliamentary Procedure, i.e. Robert's Rules of Order, and something called "Labor Economics" classes attended by needle trades workers, steel workers and house-painters in classes that met in union halls. And I promptly undertook to organize my fellow teachers in a local of the teachers union (and learned my first lessons in the dishonesty and tickery of the Communist faction of our local). I also simultaneously participated in the founding of the Chicago Labor College,

under sponsorship of the Chicago Federation of Labor, inspired by its Education Director, Ms. Sarraine Lowe, a sophisticated left-wing opponent of the Communists.

●In 1936 I attended the National Convention of the Socialist Party (held in Cleveland) as a delegate from Illinois and made a seconding speech for the nomination of Norman Thomas for President -- noteworthy only because it was the first political convention to be broadcast nationwide by radio network (then a new technological breakthrough). When I got home to Chicago some days later, my mother told me that excited neighbors had rushed to our door to announce "Ernie is speaking on the radio!" (It was probably more important to me that, following my speech, I had been asked to step outside the convention hall to be filmed on Pathe News to be shown in movie houses across the country "as the youngest delegate at the convention."

●Nation-wide Speaking Tours and Debates. Since my position as National Chairman of the Y.P.S.L. required much travel, I covered much of the United States, often coast-to-coast, speaking on college campuses wherever there were socialist youth groups. On these occasions I argued against the merger of the Socialist-led Student League for Industrial Democracy (SLID) with the Communist-led National Student League (NSL) and recall teaming up on several occasions with Hal Draper, brother of the now better known Theodore Draper, in debating this issue with Joseph Lash, then head of SLID (and soon to become better known as an intimate friend of Eleanor Roosevelt). Though ostensibly a Socialist, Lash favored the merger with the pro-Communist NSL.

●Learning from the Reuthers: But for young socialists in those years, the student movement was always secondary to the labor movement. Consequently, when I was informed that two young Detroit Socialists were stopping by at the SP National Office on their way home from working abroad, most recently in the Soviet Union, where they had worked in a tractor plant, I remember foregoing use of the

building's pokey elevator to dash up the stairs, eager not to miss any of what they had to report. They were the Reuther boys -- Walter and his brother Victor -- soon to lead the strike that humbled -- and unionized -- General Motors. Though their descriptions of tyranny in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia were not new to us, hearing it told with the vividness of shop-floor experiences made it unforgettable.

- 1936: Witnessing the Spanish Civil War. I went to Europe as a delegate to the World Youth Congress, meeting in the League of Nations assembly hall in Geneva, Switzerland, where I caused a commotion while speaking from the dais by denouncing the Soviet Union for selling oil to Fascist Italy during the latter's invasion of Ethiopia. I made friends of Spanish Republic's youth delegation, mostly anarchists, who invited me to accompany it on its return to Spain to afford me an opportunity to witness and report on the Spanish Civil War, then in its first months. Because in short-wave radio broadcasts from Barcelona, I reported on the disruptive conduct of the Communist Party, the GPU got on my trail and I moved from my hotel to the Hotel Falcon, which was under military guard of the anti-Communist POUM. ((See George Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia". Also: Willi Brandt's "In Exile".))
- 1936: Conferring with Leaders-in-Exile of the Anti-Stalinist Left. En route home spent several weeks in Paris making a round of visits with political refugees from Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia, almost all of them one-time, top-level leaders of parties, periodicals, research institutes (such as the famed "Frankfurt School") in their native countries, to discuss their theories and respective outlooks for the future. Following the fall of France in World War II, many of these Parisian exiles were to appear in New York, where contacts -- and discussions --were resumed, giving me information and insights beyond those available from graduate courses in history, political theory and the behavior of personalities in extreme distress.

- 1937: Resuming my role as National Chairman of the YPSL plunged me into the factional strife that was tearing apart the Socialist Party and its youth section, as their left wings were reenforced by the followers of Leon Trotsky, admitted into the Socialist Party in 1935 at the invitation of Norman Thomas. Within the YPSL, this "Bolshevik" left wing, with which I identified, overwhelmingly predominated at the 1937 national convention. At issue were questions, arcane for the American political scene, such as "the road to power", but also many germane questions of the role of the party vis-a-vis the labor movement and party discipline, i.e. tight or loose? And pervading all disputes was the threat of fascism (Germany under Hitler), the impending world war, and evaluation of the Soviet Union under Stalin in the light of the Moscow Trials, the Purge of Dissidents, and Gulag, the Socialist left-wing's relations to the Communist Party in the U.S.A. i.e. to co-operate or to repulse. When the leaders of the Socialist Party reacted negatively to the left wing course of the YPSL and threatened to interfere, the YPSL separated itself from the Socialist Party. When its leaders initiated wholesale expulsions of state organizations and party branches dominated by the left (Trotskyist) wing, the Socialist Party split, with the left wing setting up a new party in 1938 called the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), on the National Committee of which I served, and to which, under my leadership, the YPSL affiliated. Following a reorganization, I now served as editor of the YPSL's bi-weekly publication, "The Challenge of Youth".
- 1938-40. Another Split -- This Time with Trotskyism. The new (Trotskyist) SWP hardly had time to set itself up with its own periodicals and party apparatus, before world political events -- the Hitler-Stalin Pact and their division of Poland, and the Soviet invasion of Finland -- tested its program. In the opinion of about 40% of the SWP's members, including mine, the SWP program was found wanting. This sizable minority, predominantly the intellectual and quasi-intellectual members of the SWP -- centered on New York and the East Coast cities, largely ~~Page 18~~

students and professionals, and almost the entire membership of the YPSL --held that it was not enough to reject Stalinism, but that events demanded rejecting the Soviet Union as being, in any sense, a progressive force in world events, and also rejecting it as a model in anyway whatsoever for transition from mass exploitation toward socialist equality with freedom -- an ideological clarification which I inhaled as a draft of fresh air and supported enthusiastically. After a year or so of vigorous polemics against the position of Trotsky and the SWP leadership, this intellectualized minority split away under the ideological leadership of Max Shachtman and formed the Workers Party (WP), absorbing the YPSL membership en masse and displacing the YPSL organizationally. I assumed a position of leadership in the WP, in the top half-dozen or so, and later serving as Educational Director and Managing Editor of the "The New International", theoretical organ of this new splinter group.

●1940-48: The Anti-Communist Left: the Workers Party and the New York Intellectuals -- Less Marx and More Freud: In its composition and its inner "party life", the Workers Party was a uniquely new phenomenon in the history of the radical left: largely reflective of the New York intellectuals and their ideology of left-wing anti-Communism, as expressed by the journal "Partisan Review" and its leading contributors -- Sidney Hook, Dwight Macdonald, Lionel Trilling, Philip Rahv, Edmund Wilson, Mary McCarthy, James T. Farrell, Herbert Solow, Meyer Shapiro, Alfred Kazin, Clement Greenberg among others. Its pages were devoted not only to a critical rethinking of "Bolshevik-Leninism", but of Marxism itself, with a new prominence given to the implications of Freudian theory for societal transformations; viz. class consciousness, political behavior, etc. Views aired and debated in "Partisan Review" spilled over into the WP's weekly "Labor Action" and monthly "New International", as well as into the organized and unorganized discussions of the WP's members on a range of political subject matter that included history, philosophy, economics, social

psychology, literature, ethics, etc., creating an intellectual atmosphere comparable to post-graduate seminars at better- than-average universities, the participants reading extensively in order to hold their own. Largely shaped by this milieu, there emerged from within the WP a new generation (1940--75) of highly talented intellectuals who made their mark as critics, creative writers and thinkers, such as Irving Howe, Daniel Bell, Phillip Selznick, Emanuel Geltman, Hal Draper, Seymour Martin Lipset, Harry Braverman, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Leslie Fiedler, Julius Jacobson, Harvey Swados, Lewis Coser, Irving Kristol, Melvin J. Lasky, Milton Sacks, Noah Greenberg, Martin Diamond, Herbert Garfinckel and others, whose published works can be called up on the listings of any major university library or Internet web source. The Workers Party and its intermesh with the New York intellectuals provided me with my "higher learning" in lieu of study at a university -- and I, in turn, contributed to the education of the many talented young people in and around the Workers Party. And though I was to learn an enormous amount of new subject matter in my career as an urban planner, it never proved to be as exciting as the lectures, debates, and written pages of my Workers Party period.

●1945-1947: As Editor of "The New International". Experiencing "burnout" after several decades of editing "The New International", Max Shachtman, whose creation it was, turned over its editorship to me with the title of "Managing Editor", reserving for himself ultimate responsibility for its contents; usually fulfilled by a rapid glancing at page proofs before it went to press. Not having a file of the issues published under my editorship, I recall with particularly satisfaction some of the editorials, translations, and special articles which I wrote:

(a) I felt challenged to develop new insights in editorials that sought to analyse the new, post-war subject matter at issue in bargaining between labor and major corporations, particular those involving the United Auto Workers Union and General Motors. Noting that GM was now determined to reinstate "management prerogatives", which had prevailed before yielding to the government's war-time production

needs, while the auto workers union, under the shrewd direction of Walter Reuther, sought to replace such "prerogatives" by making all aspects of labor relations subject to bargaining, my editorial treatment speculated as to the possibility of using such piece-meal alteration of the relations of capital and labor as a means of replacing capitalism with socialism. (b) I found great satisfaction in using my somewhat rusty German language skills to translate some long lost and forgotten writings of Rosa Luxemburg for republication, working with Dwight Macdonald on polishing my rough drafts. (c) It was with pride in my intellectual courage that I wrote an editorial that threw overboard an ancient Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyist inhibition by endorsing the creation of an independent Jewish state in Palestine. (d) My status as a feature writer was considerably raised by my authorship of a very long, two-part article with which I concluded by editorship, entitled "The Stalinist Road To Power in Czechoslovakia" (published in March and April 1948 by my successor as editor, Hal Draper; making it possible to herald them on the cover page in large type with the descriptive legend "The Fullest Report Published on the Background", which propriety would have prevented my doing.)

● 1948: Resignation from the Workers Party and Termination of 17 Years of Socialistic Party Memberships

The programmatic and activist sectarianism of the Workers Party had become increasingly apparent to me during my years of work in a war plant, when in absorbing the reality of typical American wage-workers' perceptions of the larger society in which they lived and exercised citizenship revealed to me the enormity of the gap to be overcome to gain their understanding of, and support for, the Workers Party or any political organization like it. My growing disenchantment triggered a one-man campaign to change the Workers Party, beginning with its external image and, increasingly, its inner-life, its structure, and its ability to accommodate to social change within the parameters of American socio-economic and political reality. My relations with Max Shachtman, leader of the WP, cooled and turned hostile, especially after I won a majority of the Political

Page 21 (Erber: Curriculum Vitae)

Committee to support an editorial I drafted supporting the Marshall Plan as an essential bulwork against expansion of Communist Party power in war-torn Central Europe. My proposal, in the Summer of 1948, for changing the WP into an "all-inclusive" organization, open to democratic socialists of all types and inclinations, called forth a bitter denunciation of me by Shachtman, supported by a majority of the National Committee. I responded by resigning from the WP.

Teaching Experience at the University Level:

- 1964-66 --Adjunct Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Department of Sociology. Course: Urban Society
- 1967-68 -- Adjunct Professor, Rutgers - The State University, Extension Division. Course: The Local Planning Process.
- 1969-72 -- Adjunct Professor, Pratt Institute, School of Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning (Post-Graduate). Course: Theory and Practice of Metropolitan Regional Planning.

Contributing author to the textbook, "The Local Planning Process in New Jersey". His volume of professional papers Urban Planning in Transition, published in 1970, is used widely as a text in planning courses.

A partial list of recent papers and articles by Mr. Erber includes:

"Minorities and the Future of Cities", with Herrington J. Bryce and Philip Clay, in Urban Governance and Minorities, Herrington J. Bryce (ed.), Praeger, New York, 1977.

"Conflicting Concepts of Citizen Participation" in Citizen Participation Certification for Community Development: A Reader on the Citizen Participation Process, Patricia Marshall (ed), National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Washington, 1977.

"Mortgage Credit Practices: Discrimination and Disinvestment", with Daniel Searing, in Civil Rights, A Staff Report of the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Robert A. Malson (ed.), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1976.

"The Suburbanization of America", by Robert C. Weaver, with research and development of analysis by Ernest Erber, in School Desegregation: the Courts and Suburban Migration, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 1976.

HUD's Administration of the Community Development Block Grants as an Evil Fruit of Nixon's "New Federalism". Paper presented to the Annual Conference of the American Institute of Planners, San Antonio, 1975.

"The Search for Evidence of Racial Containment from the Perspective of Social Science." Clearinghouse for Civil Rights Research. The National Center for Policy Review, Washington, 1975.

What Should Happen After the Mount Laurel Decision. Paper at Symposium of the American Real Estate and Urban Economic Association and the Federal Home Loan Bank System, Washington, 1975.

Handbook for Citizen Fair Housing Advocacy, NCDH, Washington, 1974.

Equal Opportunity in Housing Might Not Mean What you Think it Does. Paper presented to the annual conference of AIP, Denver, 1974.

"The Trend in Housing Density Bonus", with John Prior, in Planning--the ASPO Magazine, November, 1974.

"Metropolitan Housing Allocation Planning", in Urban Land, Urban Land Institute, April 1974.

Urban Land As a National Resource: The Public Interest Vis-a-Vis the Market, privately published paper, 1967. Republished, 1974.

Page 24 (Erber: Curriculum Vitae)

"Housing Allocation Plans: A National Overview." Address to Strategy Conference on Moderate Income Housing for Community Leaders, League of Women Voters Education Fund, Racine, Wisconsin, 1974.

"The Inner City in the Post-Industrial Era -- A Study of its Changing Social Fabric and Economic Function," in The Inner City, Declan Kennedy and Margrit I. Kennedy, (eds.) Paul Elek, London, 1974. American edition by Halsted Press, Division of John Wiley & Sons. New York, 1975.

Housing Allocation Planning: An Annotated Bibliography, with John Prior. Council of Planning Librarians, Monticello, Ill. 1974.

Housing and Environment, a paper presented to Conference of National Civil Rights/Housing Organizations, Washington, 1973.

Continues → p. 25

~~Erber~~
"Prospects and Potential of the Newark Watershed Lands." Study and report prepared for the Division of State and Regional Planning, Dept. of Community Affairs. June 1970.

"PPBS -- A Technical and Political Evaluation." Lecture to state training institute for local planners. Newark College, Union, N.J. May, 1970.

"The Case for Repeal of the Professional Planners Licensing Law." A statement to the Legislature of the State of New Jersey as President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Planners. March 1969.

"Critique of the Yarmolinsky Paper." Prepared as a member of panel on "Who Plans and Who Acts for Social Change? -- The Validity of Planning Institutions and the Planning Establishment." AIP Government Relations Conference, Washington. January 23-24, 1969.

"The Inadequacies of Municipal Powers in Coping with the Urbanization of New Jersey." Paper prepared for the Commission to Study County and Municipal Government, Senator William Musto, Chairman. December 1968.

"Suburban Zoning is Against People." New Jersey League of Municipalities, Atlantic City, November 1968.

"What the Suburbs Owe the City." New Jersey Press Association Conference, Red Bank, November 1968.

"To Move New Jersey Forward." Publication of Regional Plan Association, October, 1968.

"The Majority Response Rally in Trenton. A Recapitulation and Evaluation." May 27, 1968.

"Relating the Interests Involved -- a Strategy for Planning." Luncheon address to Conference on Energy, Economics, Environment sponsored by the Edison Electrical Institute. Chicago, February 1968.

"A Dirty Problem -- A Verdant Opportunity." Brochure published by the Appalachian Highlands Association, 1968.

"Increased Urban Growth: What it Means." Symposium on "Planning for Your Changing Town," Local Planning Officials Council of New York State, May 1967. Published in proceedings and newsletter.

"Old Cities: A Statement of Their Problem In Terms of the Breakdown of the Traditional Acculturation Process." Committee on the Second Regional Plan. Princeton, May 1967.

"New Jersey: Issues and Action" (with William G. Anderson, Jr.) Publication of Regional Plan Association, April 1967.

"Yesterday's Postponed Needs and Tomorrow's Growth Potential: Water and Population." Newark College of Engineering Seminar. April 1967.

"The Model Cities Program -- Promise or Threat." Eastern States Conference of National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. April 1967.

"Moderate Income Housing:" a statement at a public hearing before the Committee on County and Municipal Government, N.J. State Legislature, Trenton, March 1967.

"Are New Jersey Planning Laws Adequate to Achieve Orderly Development of New Jersey Land Space." Rutgers Public Policy Forum, December 1966.

"Urbanization and Regional Planning." New Jersey Water Resources Conference. Rutgers University, July 1966.

"Urban Beauty -- The Natural Scene." Governors' Conference on Natural Beauty. Atlantic City, May 1966.

"Urban Land as a National Resource: The Public Interest vis-a-vis the Market" -- Distribution within AIP, May 1966.

"Transportation in Newark's Past and Future." Newark Commerce, (Newark's 200th Anniversary Issue) Spring 1966.

"Background Papers for Northern New Jersey Regional Conference." April, 1966.

"The Highway Comes to Town." Trenton Times, February 1966.

"Major Political and Governmental Problems of the Metropolitan Area." Eastern Training Institute of the Effective Citizens Organization, Newark. February 1966.

"The Next Stage in New Jersey's Local Rail Program." December 1965.

"Projections of Current Trends in Newark and Essex." June 1965.

"Programs for Highway Esthetics." School of Engineering, Rutgers May 1965.

"The Need for an Urban Land Policy". December 1964.

"Transportation for the Sixties." League of Municipalities Conference, Atlantic City, November 1964.

"Title 40 Revision: The Need for Planning Machinery at a Level Between the Metropolitan Region and Municipality." League of Women Voters, New Jersey State Meeting, March 1964.

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"The Allocation of Space: Mechanisms for Deciding Among the Claims of Industrial, Residential, Recreational, Educational Uses" -- Urban Studies Center, Rutgers - The State University, February 21, 1964.

"Proposed Policy Statements." Northern New Jersey Regional Conference, RPA May 1963.

"Can the Older Suburbs Stay Attractive?" Background paper -- RPA Annual Conference, 1962.

"The Future of Apartments in Essex County." Essex County Council of Planning Boards. November 1961.

Address to the Delaware River Basin Water Resources Conference on proposed Tocks Island National Recreational Area. September 1961.

"Citizens Organizations in Local and Regional Planning." 6th Annual Round Table Conference, Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council. Newark, July 1961.

"How to Influence Local Government on Behalf of Community Development." Junior Chamber of Commerce, Newark, N.J. June 1961.

"Bergen County -- 1975." Dinner Meeting, Bergen County Chamber of Commerce. May 1961.

"Transportation in Metropolitan Northern New Jersey." Address to the Business Forum, Fairleigh Dickinson University. November 1960.

XVII. Publication: Books

Jobs and Housing: A Study of Employment and Housing Opportunities for Racial Minorities in Suburban Areas of New York Metropolitan Region. Interim Report. National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing. 250 pp. New York, 1970.

Editor and Contributor: Urban Planning in Transition, Grossman, New York 1970.

Co-author: The Local Planning Process in New Jersey. Textbook for Rutgers University Extension Courses, 1968.

Awards and Honors:

• (A)

12"X18" brass-plated wall-hanging, dated May 25, 1961:

ERNEST ERBER
Executive Director
Passaic Valley Citizens
Planning Association
His friends and associates hereby pay tribute
to his leadership in planning and express their
gratitude for his outstanding contributions to
the civic development of the communities in the
PASSAIC VALLEY
1950-61

• (B)

24" X 30" framed color photo, by distinguished photo-
grapher, of a Newark scene showing old historic houses
with tall office buildings in background, bearing brass-
plated inscription:

ERNEST ERBER
Executive Director
New Jersey Committee
Regional Plan Association
1960-1969
.....

- (C) 12"X16" framed glass-covered scroll. with following inscription:

Intergovernmental Affairs Division of the American Planning Association presents this expression of commendation and thanks to

Ernest Erber, AICP

Throughout his career, he has served his profession and society with distinction, purpose, responsibility and grace. For the past several years. his service has been exemplified by extraordinary activities promoting the concept of national planning.

Presented in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 7, 1984 at the APA Annual Conference.

Signed: Irving Hand, AICP, Chairman, National Planning and Bruce McDowell, Chairman, Intergovernmental Affairs Div.

- (D)

8"X12" wall plaque:

Presented to
ERNEST ERBER
IN RECOGNITION OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE
ON BEHALF OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
OF THE APA
1993

American
Institute of
Certified
Planners

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Washington, DC 20036-1904
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www.planning.org

Making great communities happen.

December 5, 2000

Ernest Erber
Editor/Author
49 Elizabeth Street
Red Hook, NY 12571-1732

Dear Mr. Erber,

On behalf of the American Institute of Certified Planners, it is my honor and privilege to announce your selection as a 2001 Fellow of AICP. Please accept our profound congratulations on your accomplishments in advancing the planning profession and on your well-deserved recognition as an AICP Fellow.

Due to the high number and outstanding quality of nominations received by the Fellow of AICP selection jury, the deliberation process to select this year's Fellows was a challenging and humbling process. The jury is confident that the 2001 class of Fellows consists of those certified planners who represent the best the profession has to offer.

As a Fellow of AICP you are invited to be our guest at the Fellows of AICP induction ceremony at the 2001 APA National Planning Conference in New Orleans. The ceremony will be held at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), on Saturday, March 10, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. We have reserved a complimentary ticket for you. If you need to order additional tickets for the ceremony, please use the enclosed form. Any questions about the ceremony can be directed to Ms. Roshi Pelaseyed at 202-872-0611 or rpelaseyed@planning.org.

During the ceremony, each Fellow of AICP will be introduced, presented with the certificate and celebrated with the 50-word statement that each individual had supplied. If you have any revisions to your statement, please send them to Roshi Pelaseyed by February 15. Unfortunately, there will not be sufficient time for individual Fellows to make additional remarks during the ceremony.

President
Norman Krumholz, AICP

President-Elect
Sam Casella, FAICP

Executive Director
Frank S. So, FAICP

Director of AICP
Glenn Coyne, AICP



As a Fellow of AICP and a member of the College of Fellows (COF), you will be asked to participate in several unique programs such as: serving as a mentor to those starting out in the profession, assisting with the management of the AICP Endowment, and serving on future AICP Fellows selection committees. A meeting of COF is scheduled for Sunday, March 11 at 10:30 am.

Again, congratulations on your selection as a Fellow of AICP. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William W. Bowdy".

William W. Bowdy, FAICP
Chair, FAICP Selection Committee

ATTEND!

MAJORITY RESPONSE RALLY *

142 West State Street • Trenton, New Jersey 08608

(609) 989-7580 (609) 989-7581

Co-Chairmen

Honorable Alfred E. Driscoll
Honorable Robert B. Meyner

Sponsors*

Archibald S. Alexander
Mark Anton
John Bebout
Raymond Brown
Henry C. Chauncey
Honorable Clifford P. Case
Bishop John J. Dougherty
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Mrs. Katherine K. Neuberger
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George Pellettieri
Rabbi Joachim Prinz
Leonard H. Ruppert
Col. Joseph D. Rutter
Carmine F. Savino, Jr.
Bishop Leland Stark
Charles C. Thomas
Honorable William F. Tompkins
Honorable Harrison A. Williams

- "Suburban residents must understand that the future of their communities is inextricably linked to the fate of the city instead of harboring the illusion that they can maintain invisible walls or continue to run away."

The above quotation comes from the report by the N. J. Civil Disorder Study Commission, named by the Governor to examine their causes, incidents and remedies. This distinguished biracial panel of two former governors and other leaders from the state's business, professional and religious communities reported in February. Many of its most urgent recommendations require state implementation, and the Legislature has indicated a willingness to hear what the public thinks while the decisions hang in balance.

Here is the answer to the questions so often asked by members of the comfortable majority -- "What can I do?" and "How can one person help?"

- Join the mass nonpartisan MAJORITY RESPONSE RALLY outside the War Memorial Building and become part of one massive voice that tells our elected leaders that the majority does care.
- Mobilize your group -- church, campus, faculty, business, civic, labor, human relations, professional, fraternal, social, veterans, etc. Bring at least five persons to the rally.
- Bring your family, your friends -- (and your lunch).
- Write your Legislators in Trenton that you do understand -- as they must -- that we can no longer flee from our urban problems.

Governor Driscoll will be master of ceremonies, and we will have talks by many of New Jersey's most distinguished citizens. The rally will last no more than 90 minutes. It will be a one-event show, and we have assured the Legislature that we will bring the least possible inconvenience to the business day at the Capitol.

For Charter Bus Reservations:

• BERGEN Mrs. Clark 529-4393	• BURLINGTON Mrs. Gary 877-1657	• SOMERSET Mrs. Varney 844-2506	• MERCER Mrs. Huddleson 737-1003 OR Mrs. McConnell 883-5742
• PASSAIC Mrs. Cronan 274-4201	• MONMOUTH Mrs. Jensen 747-4848	• MORRIS Days 267-8866, 335-8686 Evenings Mrs. Latzer, 334-0699 Mrs. Stobie, 334-8176	
• ESSEX, MIDDLESEX, UNION Local League of Women Voters, or State League, 746-1465			

Rally Coordinator
Ernest Erber

*Partial List

* RALLY AT WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING, TRENTON, MAY 27, 1968 AT 11:30 A.M.

In support of the findings of the N. J. Commission for the Study of Civil Disorders

October 15, 1976

Ernest Erber, urban and regional planner and an expert in civil rights/
the planned community of
housing matters, moved to ^AColumbia with his family last week. Mr. Erber is
Director of Research and Program Planning on the staff of the National Com-
mittee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH). Its national offices were
moved from New York City to Washington in September. The Erbers moved here
from a home in Maplewood, New Jersey. They live at 10425 May Wind Court,
in a townhouse purchased from Mrs. Rhoda Sachs.

Mrs. Sylvia Erber served as Director of clerical workshop training at
Prospect House, East Orange, New Jersey, a half-way house providing psy-
chiatric rehabilitation services. A daughter, Elena, has enrolled in the
10th grade at Wilde Lake High School. A son, Eric, a graduate of the
University of New Mexico, lives in Albuquerque, where he is employed by the
state employment agency in research on occupational testing. He plans to
begin graduate studies in clinical psychology next year.

Living in a planned community is not a new experience for the Erber
family, since they were residents of Radburn, N. J. for six years in the 1950's.
Radburn is viewed by city planners as the prototype in the United States for
the comprehensively planned community, of which Columbia and Reston are the
best known contemporary examples. Radburn, built in the 1920's, pioneered
basic design concepts that have since become standard for new towns, such as
the super block, peripheral roads, separation of collector streets from
residential access streets, public open space between groups of houses,
pedestrian and bicycle paths, community swimming pools, supervised preschool
play lots, and other neighborhood recreation facilities and management of
common property by a community association open to owners and tenants.

Further information on Mr. Erber's professional background is
attached.

Appendages and Attachments

Miscellanies and Inter Allia

- 1968: Addressed the most powerful and prestigious audience in my long vitae: the electric power magnates of the U.S.A. -- CEO's of public utilities and other associated suppliers of energy -- assembled in conference in Chicago to discuss the outlook for their industry and their proposals for government policy on energy. My address emphasized the need to constantly redefine the relations between government in its regulatory role and the power industry's private enterprise objectives on the basis of research insights into the future and planning for it. (See: "Energy, Economics and the Environment", published by Edison Electric Institute, Conference Proceedings, Chicago. 1/68.
- 1968: In May of this year, I organized a most unusual --and highly successful -- public demonstration in the center of Trenton, capital of New Jersey, called the Majority Response Rally. In the previous year, the cities of New Jersey, mainly Neward, were the scene of major race riots, in the wake of which the Governor appointment a Commission of prominent citizens, including two former Governors, to investigate its causes and report on what state government might do to eliminate them. The Commission, amptly funded and staffed, did a thorough and conscientious job of fact-finding and made a comprehensive list of recommendations which were accepted by the Governor. But as the Legislature dragged its feet, the media blamed the inaction on the "majority" of the public, identified as "suburbanites", and predicted that nothing would be done because of the absence of "a majority response". This touched upon the heart of everything I had been involved with in urban research and planning for previous two decades -- and I took up the challenge by acting to organize a "Majority Response Rally" at the doorstep of the Legislature. Using my connections with a widespread network of civic organizations and individuals -- above all the League of Women Voters -- several thousand of New Jersey's most respectable citizens responded to the (attached) leaflet and came to Trenton to voice their support of the Commission's recommendations,

Appendages and Attachments, #2.

was typical press hyperbole, the Rally's participants were overwhelmingly middle class, suburban and homeowners. The Legislature took notice -- and did act.

- 1976: Living in a planned community is widely recommended by urban planners, but rarely experienced. It was my good fortune to live in not one, but two such communities -- Radburn, N.J. and Columbia, Md. This fortunate experience added much to my insight into the advantages of such overall design of one's neighborhood environment, but it also revealed the limits to well-being which good physical design can produce in the absence of planned guidance of socio-economic factors that, in the last analysis, determine the well-being of humans. (Attached is release by my place of employment to announce that an urban planner by the name of Erber had just moved to Columbia with his family.)
- 1971: Nixon's White House took notice of my report on "Jobs and Housing" in its annual "Manpower Report of the President (4/71) in dealing with the relationship between transportation and employment accessibility, footnoting my Carnegie-funded "Jobs and Housing" study for NCDH (pp.88-91 and 103-105.) The letter of thanks on White House stationery and over the signature of President Nixon addressed me as " Dr. Ernest Erber, indicating that his staff aides must of assumed that the author of such a prodigious report must surely possess a Ph.D!
- 1980's: Having remained philosophically a socialist after my resignation from the WP sect in 1949, I took an interest in the efforts of Michael Harrington (whose 1960's book on poverty, "The Other America", impressed President John Kennedy and did much to inspire Present Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty") to organize a non-sectarian Socialist grouping, eventually called Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). Upon the urging of my old friend Irving Howe and others I had known from my pre-1950s socialist career, I joined DSA in the 1980s, only to drop out in the 1990's, convinced once more that this is not the likely route to radical social reform in the U.S.A. I found more practical encouragement in my work with Jesse Jackson's "Rainbow).

Appendages and Attachments, #3.

- 1988: Were any of my fellow members of the American Institute of Certified Planners to come across my name listed on the "Acknowledgements Page" of Svetozar Stojanovic's "Perestroika -- from Marxism and Bolshevism to Gorbachev", they would be surprised and puzzled and would probably ask whether this could be the same Ernest Erber they know as an urban and regional planner. (Those coming across my name on the "Acknowledgements" listed by Stephen Hunter in his novel "The Spanish Gambit" would be less surprised, since he begins "The author would like to thank those who gave so generously of their time and their imaginations. First, thanks to Ernie Erber, who actually spent part of 1936 in Barcelona." One planner who did come across my name in Hunter's book was so surprised that he called me long distance near midnight to ask whether I am the Ernie Erber mentioned, saying he knew of me as the author of the textbook, "Urban Planning in Transition" which he -- and thousands of others -- had used in planning school.)

A traveller in Civil War Spain, perhaps! But an Ernest Erber having knowledge of, and offering serious thoughts on, Gorbachev's Perestroika? Must be a different Ernest Erber. But no! Its the same person, but a different time frame.

What Stojanovic found useful to discuss with me I had not only absorbed in the late 30's and early 40's, but kept alive and fresh with on-going study over the decades -- and to this day, because I consider the Russian Revolution and its eighty year aftermath to be the most phenomenal of events to have shaped Western Civilization in the Twentieth Century -- and which gives no sign of letting up in the Twentieth-First. After all, I was deep into Marx, Lenin and Trotsky long before I heard about Lewis Mumford. But as I go to bed tonight and encounter my current serious reading, there will be Mark Luccarelli's "Lewis Mumford and the Ecological Region -- The Politics of Planning" And next to it will be Stephen F. Cohen's "Rethinking the Soviet Experience -- Politics and History Since 1917".